

## The PC Build Validator Challenge

### 1. Problem Statement

You've been hired as a junior developer for a PC building website. Your first task is to write a script that validates a list of "Featured Builds" for an upcoming promotion.

You will be given a **Component Inventory**, a list of **Build Kits**, and a fixed **Budget**.

Your script must process each Build Kit, check it against the Inventory for compatibility and price, and then determine which build offers the **highest performance score** while being both **compatible** and **under budget**.

### 2. Mechanics & Rules

#### 2.1 Component Inventory

You are given a list of **P** components in your inventory. Each component has the following attributes:

Attribute	Description
component_id	Unique identifier (e.g., "cpu_1")
type	One of: CPU, Motherboard, GPU, RAM, PSU
performance_score	Integer score contribution
Cost	Price in dollars (integer)
Spec_1	First specification (see table below)
Spec_2	Second specification (see table below)

Specification Fields by Component Type:

Component Type	Spec_1	Spec_2
CPU	socket (e.g., "LGA1700")	TDP in watts (e.g., 95)
Motherboard	socket (e.g., "LGA1700")	RAM type (e.g., "DDR5")
GPU	NONE (always "-")	TDP in watts (e.g., 300)
RAM	RAM type (e.g., "DDR5")	NONE (always "-")
PSU	wattage (e.g., 750)	NONE (always "-")

Note: "-" represents no applicable specification for that field.

All numerical specs (performance\_score, cost, wattage, TDP) are integers.

#### 2.2 Build Kits

You are given **K** pre-defined build kits. Each kit contains exactly 5 component IDs:

- One CPU
- One Motherboard

- One GPU
- One RAM module
- One PSU

Format: kit\_id cpu\_id motherboard\_id gpu\_id ram\_id psu\_id

## 2.3 Budget

You have a single **Total\_Budget** (e.g., \$1500).

## 2.4 Goal

Find the kit\_id that has the **highest total performance\_score** (sum of all 5 components' scores) AND meets these two conditions:

- **Affordable:**  $\text{sum}(\text{cost of all 5 parts}) \leq \text{Total\_Budget}$
- **Compatible:** The build must pass all validation checks (see below)

## 2.5 Compatibility Validation Rules

A build is **compatible** if and only if ALL of the following are true:

1. **CPU-Motherboard Socket Match:**  $\text{cpu.socket} == \text{motherboard.socket}$
2. **RAM-Motherboard Type Match:**  $\text{ram.ram\_type} == \text{motherboard.ram\_type}$
3. **PSU Wattage Sufficient:**  $\text{psu.wattage} \geq (\text{cpu.TDP} + \text{gpu.TDP} + 50)$  .The extra 50W accounts for other components (fans, storage, etc.)

**Note:** Socket comparison is **case-sensitive** (LGA1700  $\neq$  lga1700). RAM type comparison is **case-sensitive** (DDR5  $\neq$  ddr5)

## 2.6 Quick Algorithm Overview

Your solution should follow these steps:

1. Parse the budget and component inventory into a dictionary
2. For each build kit:
  - Look up all 5 components
  - Check if all components exist (skip if not)
  - Calculate total cost and check budget
  - Validate all 3 compatibility rules
  - If valid, compare score with current best
3. Output the best build found (or NONE if no valid builds)

### 3. Input Format

B // Total Budget (integer)

P // Number of components in inventory (integer)

[P lines of components in format below]

K // Number of Build Kits to validate (integer)

[K lines of build kits in format below]

...

#### Component Line Format:

...

component\_id type performance\_score cost spec\_1 spec\_2

...

#### Build Kit Line Format:

...

kit\_id cpu\_id motherboard\_id gpu\_id ram\_id psu\_id

...

#### Example Input:

...

1500

8

cpu\_1 CPU 500 300 LGA1700 95

cpu\_2 CPU 450 250 AM5 105

mobo\_1 Motherboard 150 180 LGA1700 DDR5

mobo\_2 Motherboard 140 160 AM5 DDR4

gpu\_1 GPU 700 400 - 300

gpu\_2 GPU 600 350 - 250

ram\_1 RAM 100 80 DDR5 -

psu\_1 PSU 50 100 750 -

3

kit\_A cpu\_1 mobo\_1 gpu\_1 ram\_1 psu\_1

kit\_B cpu\_2 mobo\_2 gpu\_1 ram\_1 psu\_1

kit\_C cpu\_1 mobo\_1 gpu\_2 ram\_1 psu\_1

...

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#### 4. Output Format

...

Maximum Score: [highest\_score]

Best Build: [kit\_id]

...

#### Example Output:

...

Maximum Score: 1500

Best Build: kit\_A

...

#### Explanation:

- kit\_A:

- Score:  $500 + 150 + 700 + 100 + 50 = 1500$

- Cost:  $300 + 180 + 400 + 80 + 100 = 1060$  ✓ (under budget)

- CPU socket (LGA1700) == Mobo socket (LGA1700) ✓

- RAM type (DDR5) == Mobo RAM type (DDR5) ✓

- PSU wattage (750)  $\geq$  CPU TDP + GPU TDP + 50 =  $95 + 300 + 50 = 445$  ✓

- kit\_B:

- Cost:  $250 + 160 + 400 + 80 + 100 = 990$  ✓ (under budget)

- Compatible sockets ✓

- INCOMPATIBLE: RAM is DDR5 but mobo\_2 requires DDR4 ✗

- kit\_C:

- Score:  $500 + 150 + 600 + 100 + 50 = 1400$

- Cost:  $300 + 180 + 350 + 80 + 100 = 1010$  ✓ (under budget)

- All compatibility checks pass ✓

- But score (1400) < kit\_A score (1500)

Winner: kit\_A with maximum score of 1500.

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## 5. Edge Cases & Special Rules

### 5.1 No Valid Builds

If all builds are invalid due to missing components, incompatibility, or exceeding budget, output:

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Maximum Score: 0

Best Build: NONE

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### 5.2 Ties

If multiple builds have the same maximum score, output the first one encountered in the input order.

### 5.3 Invalid Component References

If a build kit references a `component\_id` that doesn't exist in the inventory, treat that build as invalid (skip it).

Example:

kit\_X cpu\_1 mobo\_999 gpu\_1 ram\_1 psu\_1

If mobo\_999 doesn't exist in inventory, skip kit\_X entirely.

### 5.4 All Components Must Exist

A build is only valid if it contains exactly 5 components (one of each type). If any component is missing from the inventory, the build is invalid.

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## 6. Sample Test Cases

Test Case 1: Basic Valid Build

Input:

...

1000

5

cpu\_1 CPU 400 200 LGA1700 65

mobo\_1 Motherboard 100 150 LGA1700 DDR4

gpu\_1 GPU 500 300 - 200

ram\_1 RAM 80 60 DDR4 -

psu\_1 PSU 40 80 650 -

1

kit\_X cpu\_1 mobo\_1 gpu\_1 ram\_1 psu\_1

...

**Output:**

...

Maximum Score: 1120

Best Build: kit\_X

...

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## Test Case 2: No Valid Builds (All Incompatible)

Input:

...

2000

5

cpu\_1 CPU 400 200 LGA1700 65

mobo\_1 Motherboard 100 150 AM5 DDR4

gpu\_1 GPU 500 300 - 200

ram\_1 RAM 80 60 DDR4 -

psu\_1 PSU 40 80 650 -

1

kit\_Y cpu\_1 mobo\_1 gpu\_1 ram\_1 psu\_1

...

Output:

...

Maximum Score: 0

Best Build: NONE

...

(Reason: CPU socket LGA1700 doesn't match Mobo socket AM5)

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### Test Case 3: Over Budget

Input:

...

500

5

cpu\_1 CPU 400 200 LGA1700 65

mobo\_1 Motherboard 100 150 LGA1700 DDR4

gpu\_1 GPU 500 300 - 200

ram\_1 RAM 80 60 DDR4 -

psu\_1 PSU 40 80 650 -

1

```
kit_Z cpu_1 mobo_1 gpu_1 ram_1 psu_1
```

```
...
```

Output:

```
...
```

Maximum Score: 0

Best Build: NONE

## 7. Consider these questions as you develop your solution:

### 7.1 Object-Oriented Design

- How did you model components? Did you create a base Component class with subclasses for each type?
- Where did you implement the `is_compatible()` logic? In a PCBuild class?

Hint: Create a base class Component, and subclasses like CPU, Motherboard, etc. Each should have attributes and possibly a `get_spec()` method. Then a PCBuild class can handle compatibility checking.

### 7.2 Data Structures

- What's the most efficient way to store the inventory for quick lookups by component\_id?
  - *Hint: Dictionary/HashMap with  $O(1)$  lookup is ideal*
- How did you store and iterate through build kits?

### 7.3 Algorithm Design

- What's the time complexity of your solution?
  - *Expected:  $O(K)$  for  $K$  build kits, with  $O(1)$  component lookups*
- How do you track the "best build seen so far"?

### 7.4 Error Handling

- How do you handle missing components gracefully?
- What if a PSU wattage or TDP value is invalid (negative, non-numeric)?

## 8. Input Handling

- Your program should read input from standard input (e.g., using `input()` in Python). You may assume that all fields are space-separated